



AP MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY (1350-Present)

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2023: Europe Today

Greetings APME Students:

This assignment involves a number of recent articles and several videos about (mostly) current European affairs and leaders (scroll down for the links). Hopefully, your understanding of these contemporary dynamics will provide an engaging and meaningful lens for our exploration, beginning this September, of European history.

Please review this assignment and pace your work. This is a substantial project, and it counts for two Q1 test grades.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at LFairchild@mvrhs.org as soon as possible. I am very much looking forward to working with you!

Best wishes, Ms. Fairchild-Coppoletti (FC)

Specific Requirements and Grading Rubric

Directions:

1. Read / view each source linked below. There are a total of TWENTY sources. Then create a **well-detailed** analysis in which you note the thesis of each source, support / evidence for the thesis, and historical references. Format this in a style that works best for you, but be sure to **NUMBER** your entries AND note the **TITLE** of each source. Be sure to distinguish clearly between the three categories:

- What is the **thesis**/central argument? (20 points for specific and arguable thesis statements; aim for 1-2 sentences.)
- What facts/specific **evidence** are used to support the thesis? Be specific. You may want to bullet or number these for easy reference. You may cut & paste evidence directly from the source. Be sure to use quotation marks, though. (30 points for well-detailed documentation of evidence.)
- Identify and define all **historical references** (notable people & terms) that are unfamiliar to you. In other words, make a short glossary for each source. (30 points for well-detailed documentation of references.)

2. Write a final reflection: When you have finished the readings/viewings, please identify and discuss the two or three sources you found most insightful and intriguing. Be specific about why these sources resonated with you. (20 points)

DUE DATE

- This assignment will constitute TWO test grades for Quarter 1. It is due no later than our first class in September.

NOTE on SOURCE BIAS

News sources tend to have political leanings, some to the right (more conservative) and some to the left (more liberal). As with historical documents in a DBQ, your understanding of material is contingent on your consideration of political bias, perspective and factual accuracy. Media Bias / Fact Check is an independent media-checking site, and I encourage you to take at least a few minutes to explore its website: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>. Of course, the bias of news outlets and journalists is always arguable. The sources in this project come mostly from the following sources:

- *The Conversation* (“least biased” and “highly factual,” Australia-based)
- *American Conservative* (“right-leaning” and “highly factual”)
- *The New York Times* (“left-leaning” and “highly factual”)

- *The Atlantic* (“left-leaning” and “highly factual”)
- *Vox* (“left-leaning” and “highly factual”)
- *British Broadcasting Corp.* (“left-leaning” and “highly factual,” Britain-based)
- *Public Broadcasting System* (“left-leaning” and “highly factual,” U.S.-based)

NOTE ON NYT ACCESS

- MVRHS has a NYT subscription. To access NYT content, you need to activate your NYT Pass. 1) Visit nytimes.com/passes; 2) Create a free NYTimes.com account using your school email address with the approved domains. (If you already have a NYTimes.com account associated with an email address, log in with those credentials.); 3) Check your email inbox for our confirmation message. Click on the link in your confirmation message to validate your email address and claim your Pass. If the confirmation email didn’t arrive, check your spam folder. If it isn’t there, send an email to schools@nytimes.com from your school email address to request confirmation. You have successfully claimed a Pass when you see the Start Your Access screen.

THE SOURCES

1-2. Legacy of imperialism

[Leopold II: Belgium 'wakes up' to its bloody colonial past](#) (short BBC article, 6/13/20)

[Haiti's Lost Billions](#) (medium NYT article, 5/20/22)

3. Critical Race Theory & the history of repressive memory laws

[The War on History Is a War on Democracy](#) (long *NYT Magazine* essay, 6/29/21)

4. Persistent anti-semitism in Europe

[Is it Time for Jews to Leave Europe?](#) (a LONG *Atlantic* article with many important historical references, 3/2015)

5-6. Islam & Islamophobia

[How Islam Created Europe](#) (short *Atlantic* article)

[The Weaponization of Laïcité Against Muslims: Pushing More Towards Extremism](#) (medium length blog from the London School of Economics)

7-8. The precarious state of democracy

[Is There Something Wrong With Democracy?](#) (5 min. *NYT* video; historical references only)

[Global Extremism](#) (NYT article, 1/26/21)

8-9. TURKEY & Erdogan

[Why the World is Worried about Turkey](#) (7 min. VOX video)

[This is What Democracy Looks Like? How Erdogan won again in Turkey](#) (12 minute NPR broadcast recording or read the transcript, 6/1/23)

10-11. Russia, Putin & Ukraine

[From Spy to President](#) (9 min. VOX video)

[Who Will Remember the Horrors of Ukraine?](#) (Interactive NYT article, 6/13/22)

12. Globalism (versus unilateralism)

[Biden's Internationalism Conflicts With Global Realities](#) (short *American Conservative* article, 6/29/21)

13-14. Northern Ireland & Brexit

[What Peace in Northern Ireland Looks Like Now](#) (medium length NYT article, 4/10/23 w/ good photographs)

[Brexit Turn 3. Why is No One Wearing a Party Hat?](#) (medium length NYT article, 1/31/23)

15-16. COVID Pandemic & Merkel

[What Social Distancing Looked Like in 1666](#) (short *NYT* op-ed, 3/29/20)

[One Crisis Too Many: How the Coronavirus Pushed Germany to Shift Course](#)
(medium-length *NYT* article, 7/16/20)

17. Scandinavia

[Scandinavian socialism](#) (medium-length NYT op-ed, 3/10/20)

18-19. Climate Change

[Our 'Pursuit of Happiness' Is Killing the Planet](#) (medium-length NYT op-ed, 3/6/20)

[What the Ottoman Empire can teach us about the consequences of climate change – and how drought can uproot peoples and fuel warfare](#) (short article from *The Conversation*, 6/7/21)

20. The Balkans

[Ratko Mladic Loses Final Appeal in Genocide Conviction](#) (medium-length NYT article, 6/18/21)

Optional: [Montenegro was a success story in troubled Balkan region – now its democracy is in danger](#) (short article from *The Conversation*, 3/26/21)

